MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2000

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We Are Exhibiting!

This summer, thanks to Karen O'Neal and Judy Chrisman, we were able to mount our first exhibit. Entitled "In the Good Old Summertime," the exhibit used items from our collections to illustrate summer work (sowing and harvesting, canning and ice cream making), and summer recreation (swimming, golfing, kodaking, going to the lake and going up North). In addition, thanks to recent donations from Karl Malcolm, we were able to exhibit Junius Beal's tandem bicycle, his wife's wedding gown, and many newspaper articles detailing their bicycle tour through Europe in 1890. The centerpiece of the exhibit was their Ivel Tandem Safety bicycle, complete with advertisement and sales receipt. Some of you may have seen the article about this exhibit in the *Ann Arbor News* (August 14th). This drew a lot of visitors to the museum.

In October, in anticipation of the coming Presidential Election, we are happy to announce that **Doug Kelley** will be displaying portions of his massive collection of political memorabilia. In the front parlor (Dusseau Room) will be the **"Washtenaw Winners:** Presidential Candidates who carried Washtenaw County since 1940." In the Kempf and Towsley Rooms, Doug will be displaying articles related to Women in Politics including items from the **Women's Suffrage Movement**, Eleanor Roosevelt materials, and items from current women's organizations (MADD, The Million Mom March against Gun Violence). Doug will be lecturing on the women's portion of his collections on October 15th. See program section for details.

Photo: Susan Wineberg

Banner for R.W. Mills of Saline reminds us that Washtenaw County was an important producer of wool in the 19th century.

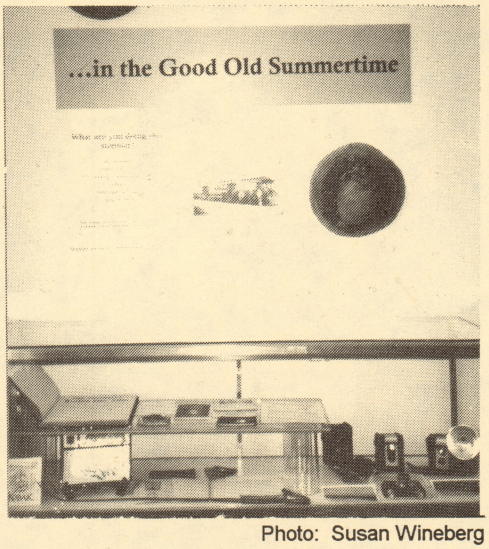


Photo: Susan Wineberg

"In the Good Old Summertime" Exhibit at the Museum in August.

Now that we are actively mounting exhibits, **we need your help!** If you would like to give tours or just be on hand to be a watchful eye, please call President Pauline Walters at 662-9092. We find that we need at least two people whenever we are open.

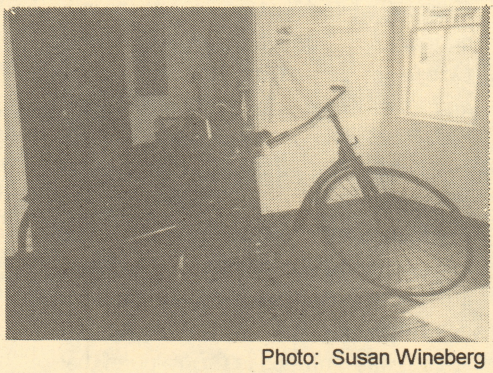


Photo: Susan Wineberg

Junius Beal's Ivel Tandem Safety Bicycle.

September Program

Sunday, September 17th- City Council Cha... ll be spea...

PETER B FLETCHER
"Presidential Politics with a Local Flavor"

WCHS Members Tour Alden Dow Home And Studio In Midland

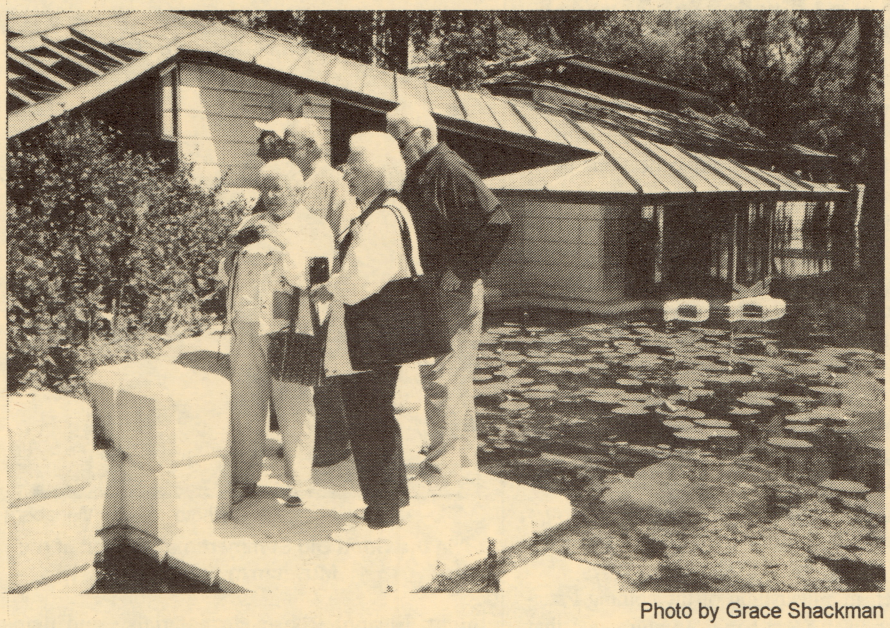


Photo by Grace Shackman

Bob Hoisington, Harriet Birch, Jim and Virginia Lau, and Ralph Beebe at the Alden Dow Home in Midland. Notice the submerged office in the background.

On Saturday June 3rd, 25 members of the WCHS were led by historian Grace Shackman on a tour of Alden Dow's home and studio, the home of his parents Grace and Herbert Dow and the Dow Gardens—all in Midland, Michigan. A lovely box lunch was provided and the weather cooperated nicely. Grace reported that the bus driver was named 'Doc' and the bus was "Miss Daisy." He was an excellent driver and there was a good feeling of camaraderie that made the day particularly enjoyable. The following is from their brochure.

Alden Dow chose to build his home and studio in 1933 on a sloping site situated in an apple orchard that had been developed by his father. A nearby stream was dammed to form a pond that encompasses the building. As his design evolved, the most pressing challenge facing the young architect was to integrate the geometry of the design with the randomness of nature. Dow's six-month apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright helped clarify his philosophy and enabled him to meet this challenge.

The approach to the Home and Studio reveals how successful he was. At the end of tree-lined Post Street, the Studio comes into view. Its sharp angles, dynamic interaction of plane against plane, richness of color and wonderful mix of materials—glass, wood and unit block—subtly announce what architectural critic Talbot Hamlin wrote in 1941, "a temperament that seems to enjoy the process of invention."

The entry is direct and inviting with its wide door, rich geometric patterns and low ceiling showing the elements of Dow's style. One enters a bright and soaring reception area that is bathed in natural light and vivid colors. Here the unit block continues into the walls and floor. This proved to be a comfortable area for Dow to discuss projects with clients.

From the reception area the ceiling plane slopes to an exterior trellis, a matrix of triangles and squares that reach for the pond. Another plane of the boldly colored ceiling angles sharply down to the sunken conference room, a wonder of contemporary American architecture. The floor is almost two feet below the level of the pond and light dances on the ceiling. [This has always been my favorite spot in this house. Surrounded by water, one really feels a part of Nature.]

Adjacent to the reception area is the original 1934 drafting room that was laid out on a grid. The broad windows of the room's north wall provide abundant natural light for the drawing tables.

Dow's study, located at the far end of the drafting room, serves as the transition from the working space of the firm to the living space of the home. From his desk/drawing table Dow could look through the large picture window onto a terrace and the pond. A second studio wing was begun in 1936. Long and narrow, this drafting room is about six feet below the level of the entrance and is a subtle complement to it. The roof, sheathed in copper and trimmed with wood, is based on a dynamic interaction of parallelograms and equilateral triangles. A two-story drafting room was constructed in 1965.

In 1939 Dow started construction of his residence and completed it in 1941. A wide and beautifully crafted wooden door opens into the bright living room where windows form two walls of the room. They also provide a view to the landscaped terrace and pond. At the base of the windows are unit block sills used to display plants and selected pieces from his pottery collection. The living room ceiling vaults upward and is covered with panels of translucent woven plastic set in wooden frames. Lights behind the panels provide a soft effect. Behind the dining room and cantilevered over the pond is a screened porch whose low horizontal rails give an unobstructed view of the woods and water below. This is a peaceful space, a comfortable retreat for tea and conversation. Nearby hallways lead to the bedrooms, carefully placed to ensure privacy.

The basement was once a large game room and performance space, carpeted

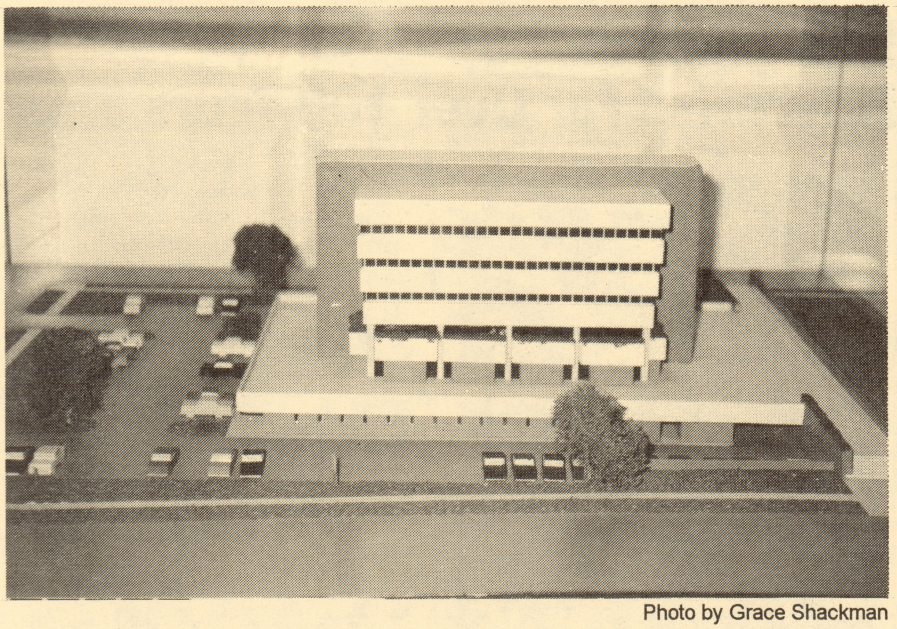


Photo by Grace Shackman

A model of the Ann Arbor City Hall on display at the Alden Dow Archives in Midland.

with bold geometric designs in primary colors. Today it houses the Alden B. Dow Archives, the repository for the records of Mr. Dow's architectural career and his many personal interests.

The Alden B. Dow Home and Studio is open for tours every Friday at 10 AM and 2 PM and every Saturday at 10 AM. Reservations are required. Adults- $10.00. Students- $5.00. Children must be at least 8 years old. Call (517) 839-2744 or visit their website at ***www.abdow.org****.*

A Special Tour is being planned for September 29, 30 and October 1st. *In addition to touring the Home and Studio, visitors will be taken by bus to view over 40 structures designed by Dow in Midland, with interior tours of two additional private homes. This tour takes two hours.*

Supplied by Grace Shackman

Alden Dow in his office in Midland, Michigan.

PAT THOMPSON

Garden Update

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of many of our members, MoMs has a new old-fashioned appearance that is drawing many compliments from visitors. Ella Grenier, our former gardener, generously donated the bus stop brick paving in front of the museum for a safe, neat welcome area. The extensions have been planted with ivy and myrtle (periwinkle, vinca) as a result of a steady stream of plant donations by Judy Chrisman, Louisa Pieper, Peter Rocco, Carolyn Schultz and Jay Snyder.

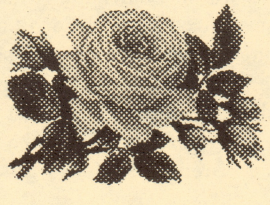
On the east side of the parking lot, we now have a bed of fragrant lily-of-the-valley contributed by Marjorie Cripps. Nearby, visitors will see a lovely course of sweet woodruff donated by Pam Newhouse. Lavender, lemon lilies and cosmos have been planted toward the driveway exit with a poppy mallow running through them all (the old fashioned vine called "wine cups" for its carmine red goblet-shaped flowers).

A Japanese snowball will enhance the front door area in the spring and an Annabelle hydrangea is now blooming near the back door with huge white flower clusters. Many perennials have been added as well: coral-bells, cranesbill, anchusa, veronica, butterfly weed, gaura, New England aster and yucca.

Morning commuters should look for our morning glories on the fence by the kitchen garden while evening passers-by may enjoy the four o'clocks and white moonflowers so popular with Victorian ladies avoiding the noon-day sun.

Thanks to all who contributed time, labor, funds and plants in a group effort to enhance our gateway to Ann Arbor.

Editor's Note: A big round of applause to our tireless gardener Pat Thompson. What a fabulous job she has done!



Jiffy Mix And Chelsea Milling: A Holmes Family Enterprise For Over 100 Years

Over 50 people attended the Annual Meeting in the main room of the Chelsea Depot on May 17th, and heard Howard "Howdy" Holmes, the President and CEO of Chelsea Milling (and former Indy 500 race car driver), give a wonderful and witty talk on the history of his family's firm. His speech capped an evening of interesting exhibits by the Chelsea Historical Society and the usual wonderful array of foods contributed by the members to this annual potluck event. If you wish to rent the Depot, call 475-3589. Holmes began by inquiring if any of our potluck foods used Jiffy Mix! He then proceeded to give some facts about the company, though he admitted that some of the dates were iffy since no one has gone through the files and reconciled all the data there. "I'm a little fuzzy about which Holmes did what in the 1800s but from 1900 on I'm clear as a bell."

"My great grandfather, by the name of Harmon Samuel Holmes, was the owner of what was then called the E.B. White Flour Mill. White was the family name of my grandmother Mabel who later invented our first Jiffy Mix product. She did so just over on West Middle St. where she was living at the time and raising my father Howard and his twin brother Dudley. In 1887 my grandfather married into the White family that explains the nine generations of flour millers in the history of Chelsea Milling Co. It is said that we can trace our roots back to 1802 in Kansas, but I think maybe there were Indians there then! I'm sure there were some wild animals out there but I'm not so sure about a grist mill. This is part of the family lore and really needs to be researched further.

So, in the late 19th century we were flour millers. Farmers brought us wheat and we would mill it into flour and they would use it for food. Until about 1915, there were 4-5 types of flour such as bakery flour, cookie flour, graham flour and others. In 1901 we changed the name from EB White to Chelsea Milling Co. when we officially incorporated. In April of 2001 we will be a century old and we will do something (bake a cake?) As some of you know we don't do any advertising and prefer to be quiet about what we do. So our idea of a celebration will probably keep a local focus and we won't make a big deal about it in the trade. In 1901 we were one of 488 grist mills in Michigan. Today we are one of only five!

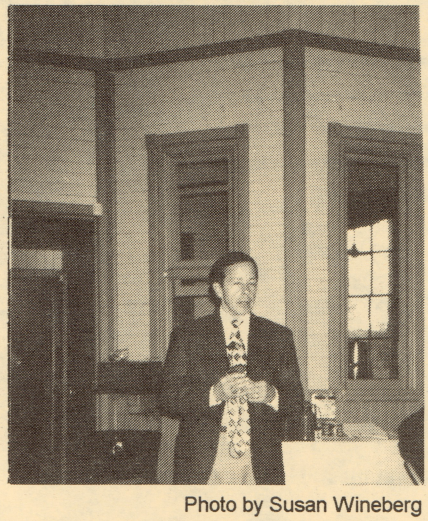


Photo by Susan Wineberg

Howard "Howdy" Holmes talks about Chelsea Milling and the Jiffy Mix his grandmother invented at the Annual Meeting held in the Chelsea Depot.

In the early 20th century we became flour wholesalers. Our first customer was C.F. Smith in Detroit. This might be a familiar name to some since they were a large concern then. Jiffy Mix did not come into being until 1930 when grandmother Mabel noticed that a friend of her twin sons, who was being raised by a single father, had horrible biscuits in his lunch box. To her they looked like hockey pucks or hardened snowballs! She got the notion to invent a mix for people who lacked the ability or the time to make good biscuits. She invented a product so that 'even a man could do it.' Mabel was clearly ahead of her time. The Jiffy All-Purpose Baking Mix that came out in April 1930 was the first retail prepared food ever. There's this other company we still compete with—they're in Minneapolis—General something—not General Custer—General Mills! They came out with their yellow product (Bisquick—or the B Word as we call it) in the fall of 1931.

We were still making flour but it became pretty clear that the mix market, which was new, was going to drive the company despite the economic Depression. Our goal has always been to give the consumer what we call the 'best value'—a combination of the highest quality ingredients and the best price. So we don't advertise, don't do any marketing, don't do any promotion, don't do any couponing, we don't do anything in the traditional way that business goes to market. The result is that there is anywhere from 28-52% less cost to you the consumer. We realize that our customers do value us because we have a very affordable product and a very high quality product. We have achieved our status over the years as the market share leader by far and away with a 56% share of the market. The next closest rival, General Mills has 13% while Pillsbury, that other company in Minneapolis, has an 11% market share. So, we think the consumer has spoken.

Advertising isn't a bad thing. I ran an advertising firm for a while, and it's the most common way people go about selling things. But when you don't advertise, your product or your service has to stand on its own. Maybe you will try a product because someone recommends it to you. Word-of-mouth is the most powerful form of advertising. But if you don't like the product or the service you won't use it again. Our survival without advertising is testimony to the quality of our product.

We benefited tremendously from our Depression product and our second product, the pie crust mix, was introduced in 1940 (still the #1 selling pie crust today). Our third product (1950) was a corn muffin mix. Today this is the seventh fastest moving dry grocery item in the U.S and the #1 selling mix item in the world! We make more corn muffins than Dominos makes pizzas. In terms of market share we have 88% of the corn muffin market. And those numbers are low. We think it's actually in the 95% + range. So, we do OK for a little family owned company that's just across the street!

How did we do this? It was done by my father, my uncle, my grandmother and my grandfather. They laid the foundation and each generation has added its own twist. We are amazed that we have gone through four generations of Holmeses without goofing it up, a common problem with family-owned businesses. I grew up in the business and went to Eastern Michigan with the intention of teaching business.

But I gave it up before I got my degree because I had wanted to be a race car driver all my life and I just went and did it. I'm thankful for having the opportunity to pursue a childhood dream. Although I didn't finish college I think my 20 years in racing

were the equivalent of about three college degrees.

I also think I knew that being part of a family business showed you only one perspective—my dad was clearly consumed by this business seven days a week—— and we didn't understand why dads were absent so much (and he didn't understand what was wrong with that). It was clear to me that I would come back to Chelsea Milling Co. but that to learn some things I would have to go someplace else. I didn't think I could add value otherwise. I knew my father was never going to have time to teach me the business because he was too busy running the business. It was a fortunate move I think that I realized that. (Holmes joked that when he started driving he had been 6'6"! Then he gave three reasons why the best race car drivers are short).

The racing business really gave me great experience in the world of business. Racing is the only sport that survives solely on corporate sponsorship, so behind the scenes it's about going out and finding sponsorship to pay the costs. It's really not too much different than any other business venture. The difference is that the business of racing moves about as fast as the race cars themselves. To be successful in that world I had to learn to make instantaneous decisions on the track and it's quite unlike what you think. It's not about risk taking but rather about risk reduction. So even though drivers are seen to be risk takers, in fact they are not. I've never been able to find any other environment where there are so many stimuli you have to sift through and make a decision. Of course if you goof, it hurts—a lot! This was good training for a business career.

When I returned 20 years later to a business run on a stoic model it isn't surprising that I was perceived as being out to lunch! You could say that I was an IBM AS 400 and Chelsea Milling was a punch card 32 system. Clearly my ideas about change and our future differed. This gave me a personal chance to grow and to help the business as well. My outside experience was extremely useful but I had to convince others I was right. It was made harder by the fact that it was my father I had to deal with. [Father Howard, at age 86, still remains Chairman of the Board and is at the company every day]. We struggled and unlike a lot of family businesses which go under (only 25% of first generation businesses make it to the second generation and only 5% second generation make it to third and we don't even have statistics on the fourth) we were able to keep going and work out our family differences with the help of the Lord and only a few bruised egos.

I think I've helped Chelsea Milling in several ways. I returned in 1987 to find a company with a nationally known product (Holmes paused and the audience clapped as a train whistled by the station!) but with a workplace terribly out of sync with the marketplace. We needed to keep pace internally with the fast pace of the market and family-run businesses usually don't deal well with this since they rely on one person. This model can't be sustained and it was lucky we saw these problems before they wrecked the company. We needed to change since we had 350 people and we had to work as a team, something I had to learn how to do. Let them learn their job is at stake and they are willing to change right away! But we didn't want to scare people so we started change without anyone seeing that it was necessary.

Since I was used to making instantaneous decisions, it proved a growth opportunity for me to learn how to reach a consensus and to think problems over, not at mach speed. After a year and a half it dawned on me that it was I that had to change to help the business. I had to reinvent myself to serve Chelsea Milling Co, just as I reinvented myself to survive and succeed in the racing environment. First I had to find people that pleased my parents and myself and convince them we needed to change. [After becoming CEO and President in 1995, Holmes recruited top talent from Ocean Spray, Unisys and National Oats, and was able to set up business systems, formal evaluations, incentives and strategic planning processes].

I succeeded in getting the company to put effort into training people, into reinvesting in the buildings, and in getting computers. I remember that my first suggestion when I returned in 1987 was to use a fax machine. That was hard because, of course, we had these ancient telephones that worked. I'm proud that we have been able to recognize others' skills and that we will continue into the 21st century in great shape!

Today Chelsea Milling offers tours of its facilities Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. The regular capacity is 45 people. The 1-½ hour tour includes a slide presentation and refreshments. To schedule a tour (reservations are required) call 734-475-1361. Or visit the Jiffy Mix website at ***http://www.jiffymix.com.*** *It's full of wonderful facts and recipes.*

House Update

On August 21st, President Pauline Walters e-mailed the Board that it was a GREAT DAY. The painters began their work on the exterior of the house (work we thought would start in July!), AA Alarms scheduled a date to get an alarm system installed, and UV films were placed over all the windows in the house to cut down heat loss and prevent damage to our artifacts. The house has been gently washed and is being primed and stained. Come by and check us out –we are looking better than ever.

Events And Lectures

Preservation Wayne, dedicated to preservation in the Detroit Metro Area, has a number of events in the fall. On September 15-17th, in conjunction with the Detroit Festival of the Arts, they will be reviving their **Mansions to Museums** tours to show off unseen corners of the cultural center. One-hour walking tours depart from Cass and Kirby every hour from 11-5. Tickets are $5.00. Call (313) 577-3559 for information on all their events.

On Thursday, September 29th, they will host **Preservation Works!** 9th in a series of Loft Development Forums. It will be held from 8:30-12:30 at the Harmonie Club, E. Grand River at Randolph. Keynote Speaker is pioneering urban developer Dana Crawford of Denver. Tickets are $65 ($45 for non-profits and students).

On Thursday October 12th, PW will hold its Annual Meeting at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Tickets are $25. There will be a keynote speaker, auction, and tour.

The **Michigan Historic Preservation Network**, which advocates for preservation throughout the State of Michigan, will hold its **Annual Fall Benefit Evening** on **November 10th** at the Alden Dow Home and Studio in Midland.

The MHPN will join Detroit in the celebration of its 300th birthday by hosting the **21st Michigan Preservation Conference** at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel from **April 26-28, 2001**. The theme will be **"Of the Straits—Detroit's Land and Water."** Learn more about the network by visiting their website at **www.mhpn.org/** or call (248) 625-8181 and speak to Jennifer Radcliff, President.

Mark Our Fall Program Dates

Louisa Pieper has once again put together a wonderful series of lectures for us on the theme of politics in this Presidential Election Year. Remember that you will receive a post card before each meeting giving particulars of the event and where to park. All lectures begin at 2 PM.

Sunday • September 17th

Sam Eldersveld, former mayor [illegible] Professor [illegible] and auth[illegible] *Politics* [illegible] on "An[illegible] Politics." This talk will be held in City Council Chambers, second floor, Guy Larcom Building, Fifth and Huron. We'd like to thank Mayor Ingrid Sheldon for securing this room for us.

PETER B FLETCHER
"Presidential Politics
with a Local Flavor"

Sunday • October 15th

Doug Kelley, Curator of the Democratic Archive (at his home!) will lecture on "Collecting Memorabilia of the Women's Suffrage Movement and Women in American Politics." This will be held in two shifts at our Museum Building so we can accommodate all who would like to attend. This lecture is in conjunction with Doug's exhibits at the Museum discussed elsewhere in the newsletter.

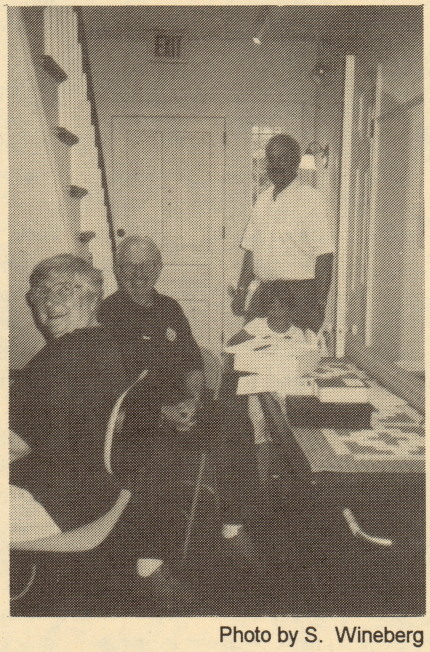


Photo by S. Wineberg

President Pauline Walters is back on the job after hip surgery this summer. Hooray!

Sunday • November 11th

Peggy Haines, Washtenaw County Clerk and Register of Deeds, will lecture on the election process. This will be held in the Board of Commissioners Room at the County Building on Main Street (formerly the Post Office).

Sunday • February 18th

Russell Bidlack, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Library Science, U-M, will lecture on the cache of letters he purchased last year that were written by John Geddes and other members of the Geddes Family. This will probably be held at the Bentley.

Sunday • March 18th

Wystan Stevens, Ann Arbor historian and raconteur par excellence, will lecture about his recent book on the History of Northfield Township.

Sunday • April 15th

An Open House at the U-M Observatory is planned for this date.

Kempf House Lectures Start

The Kempf House Noon Lecture Series (put together by the indomitable Louisa Pieper) kicks off September 20th with a talk by our own Pam Newhouse on Civil War Letters Home. On September 27th Gretchen Pfaehler of Quinn Evans Architects will talk on Scagliola. Tom Loeffler of the Toledo Museum of Art will speak on Popular Prints and Photographs, 1870-90 on October 4th. On October 11th Brian Dunnigan of the Clements Library will speak on Images of Detroit, 1701-1838 and on October 18th Sharon Ferraro, Kalamazoo Historian, will speak on Great Lakes Lighthouses. On November 8th Louisa Pieper will talk on the Street Exhibits Program and the 15 new exhibits being planned.

All lectures are held from noon-one at the Kempf House, 312 S. Division St. Admission is $2.00 ($1.00 to members). Bring a bag lunch but remember that food and drink consumption is restricted to the dining room area. Parking is available in the Library Lot. For information call (734) 994-4898.

Summer Brings New Donations

Collections Chair Judy Chrisman has been kept busy over the summer. In addition to co-curating the exhibit on the "Good Old Summertime," Judy accessioned many items as well. Karl Malcolm Jr. continues to give us wonderful things from the Sarah Jacobs Malcolm estate. This summer we received three oil portraits of Phebe Beal and Rice Beal as well as two maps, including an 1836 map of Washtenaw County and an 1864 map of Washtenaw and Lenawee counties. Mr. Malcolm also donated a photo album given by Rice Beal to Phebe in 1871 that contains a Matthew Brady Civil War photograph of George Atwood.

Susan Wineberg has continued to give us many business related and advertising items, including pens, blotters, calendars, needle cases, pins, fans, bottles and plates relating to banks, churches, fuel companies, druggists, ice cream stores, dairies, and auto-related businesses. Two interesting items were insurance claim cards from the German Farmers Fire Co. of Washtenaw (written in German) dated 1899 and 1903.

To donate an item to the WCHS, please contact Judy at (734) 769-7859 or write her at 1809 Dexter Rd., Ann Arbor 48103. You will be sent an acquisitions form for tax purposes if the item is accessioned.

Museum Shop Needs Manager

Our Museum Shop is stocked with wonderful items for sale including books, note cards, toys, hand-made and other gift items, but we need someone to oversee sales and the buying of new items. Anyone interested please call Pauline, 662-9092.

How To Join

Send name, address and phone number with check payable to WCHS to: Treasurer, WCHS, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100. For information call (734) 662-9092 or e-mail us at WCHS MoMS@aol.com.

Kudos And Applause

Congratulations to the **City of Ypsilanti** on winning the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's annual award in the city government category. Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Member Jane Schmiedeke nominated the city and it was the first time a city won the award. The nomination told of Ypsilanti's 25-year journey toward the appreciation of historic preservation that has made Ypsilanti a showcase of restored homes and buildings. The Homes Tour this year was ample proof of that.

The **Ypsilanti City Hall** (1888, Mason and Rice) on Michigan Avenue is finally done and looks as it did when constructed thanks to an ISTEA grant. The building was rededicated July 19th. The **Towner House** is starting to look good as well and was open to the public during the Heritage Festival on August 20th. The Towner House Restoration Committee is selling a paper model of the house to cut and paste for a donation of $5.00. If you wish to contribute, write John Harrington, 209 N. Huron St. Ypsilanti, MI. 48197.

In other news, **James Mann** has been named Ypsilanti Historian by the **Ypsilanti Historical Society**. Their archives are open Monday-Friday, 9AM-noon. The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** will hold its September General Meeting on **September 27th,** 7:30 PM. Billed as the **Ypsilanti Antiques Road Show**, Steve Gross will appraise the audience's treasures. It will be held in the basement of the Riverside Arts Center. Please limit items to one per person. For information call Lisa Mills at (734) 485-3683 or visit their website at **www.yhf.org**.

The **University of Michigan's Detroit Observatory in Ann Arbor also won a preservation** award from the MHPN in the commercial category. The 1854 Greek Revival/Italianate structure was restored with aid from Quinn Evans Architects and J.C. Beal Construction. This was the first true restoration project undertaken by the university in its history. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Detroit Observatory is the second oldest building on the campus and now operates as a museum of university history and astronomical science. We'll keep you posted on their programs this year.

In Detroit, the Model T Automotive Heritage Complex, Inc. or T-Plex, has purchased the **Ford Motor Co. Piquette Ave. Plant**. The first plant built by the Ford Motor Co., it was the site of the development of the Model T and the cradle of a revolution that changed society and the economy of America. We learned about this plant last year from David Lewis in his talk on Henry Ford. The building is virtually unchanged since it was built in 1904 and plans now are to develop an automotive heritage interpretive center. For more information check the Henry Ford Heritage Association website at **www.hfha.org** or call Jerry Mitchell at (313) 577-1526.

Attention All Teachers

LOAN BOXES AND WHAT'S IT? GAME AVAILABLE. WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts, set up as a "What's It?" Game, for schools and other groups. We also have two loan boxes—"Life Before Electricity" and "Hats to Spats" which can be rented for a $15.00 fee and a deposit. The loan boxes are "hands on" artifacts and books which illustrate how life was lived before electricity (you had to grind your own coffee and went to sleep early in the winter when it got dark at 5 o'clock) and what adults and children wore in the 19th century. Sally Silvennoinen demonstrates the "What's It?" Call her at (734) 971-5086 to set up a date. Or contact President Pauline Walters, 662-9092.

Around Town

The **Old West Side** is hosting its annual **Homes Tour** this year on Sunday, **September 24th**. For more information on the houses and times contact Bill Roberts, (734) 668-6443.

The **Tuomy Hills Gas Station** is now officially listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The State Historic Preservation Office informed us of this in May. To find out more about how to list a property, contact Robert Christensen at (517) 335-2719.

Speaking of the National Register, many in town are taking advantage of the **Historic Preservation Tax Credits** now available to homeowners. You must be in a historic district or an individually designated property in Ann Arbor or on the National Register to qualify. Contact **Brian Lijewski** at the State Historic Preservation Office for a brochure and details. He can be reached at (517) 373-1631.

Next time you are at the **University Hospital**, check out the **1908 Doctor's Office** on display. Furniture and articles belonging to Drs. Conrad Georg, George W. Pray, George Wantz and Miner C. Hazen, part of the Coller Collection of Medical memorabilia, are showcased in honor of the U-M Medical School's Sesquicentennial. There is also a history of doctoring, and cabinets with instruments, old diplomas and tools of the trade. In this era, offices were preferred to hospitals, which were seen as being for the homeless and the insane! The exhibit is in the main lobby of the Taubman Health Care Center. It was installed in late March.

Remember the "Good Old Days?" Marian Zwinck kindly loaned us this photo which shows Marian and Doris Allmendinger, Howard Baker, Melvin Bahnwiller, and John Moore.

Around The County

The 4th Annual **Tour de Sprawl**, sponsored by the Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group, will be held Saturday **September 23rd**. For those of you interested in the disappearance of our rural heritage, this tour should be a must. This is a bicycle or bus tour that originates and ends at Webster Town Hall. **Please note you can take a bus throughout the entire tour.** It is a beautiful trip through 19 miles of scenic rural countryside. The cost is $7.00 for bus riders and $3-5 for cyclists. You must pre-register by September 15. Call (734) 764-1667 (ask for Karlin) or e-mail TourdeSprawl@umich.edu.

Our friends in Saline are gearing up again for the fall. On **September 20th** they begin their Monthly Lecture Series (every third Wednesday) with a talk by **Jack Miller** who will speak on the Hudson Motor Car and the Auto Industry in General. All talks are held at the Saline Depot, 402 N. Ann Arbor Street and begin at 7:30. Admission is always free and light refreshments are served. Future talks will be held on **October 18th** (Jay Platt speaking on Saline and Washtenaw County in Old Books) and **November 15** (Gary Skory speaking on Salt Deposits in Saline and Michigan).

On **Saturday October 7th** from 11-4 they will showcase Harvest Time Activities at the **Rentschler Farm Museum.** Demonstrations will include blacksmith, building restoration, basket weaving, spinning, beekeeping, sauerkraut making and gardening. There will be music, food and gift items for sale. After this festival, the farm will be closed until May. The farm is open every Saturday until this date and is located on Michigan Avenue, sandwiched between the Ford plant and the new shopping center. You have to see it to believe it! For information call Agnes Dikeman at 734-769-2219 or Wayne Clements at 734-429-9621.

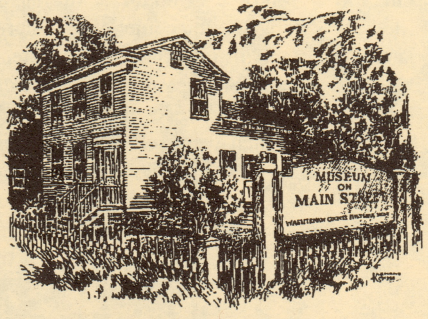
The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will meet on Sunday **September 24th** in the Auditorium of the McAuley Education Center, 3305 Elliot Drive. Use parking lot "P". The meeting time is1: 30 and the speaker will be Mr. **Arnold Nethercott**, past president of the **United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada**. His topic will be on the colonists who went to Canada and fought on the side of the British in the American Revolution. The class after will be on "Beginning your Genealogical Research" and will be taught by member Carolyn Griffin. For more information contact Mary Lou Barry at (734)-769-5452.

The **Ypsilanti Historical Museum** is sponsoring a Craft Demonstration Day on Saturday **October 7th** from 10:00 AM – 4:PM. Many crafts will be demonstrated including candle making, basket weaving, lace making, stenciling, butter churning quilting and rope making. The Museum is located at 220 N. Huron St. For more details contact Ann McCarthy, (734) 483-2929.

Cemetery vandalism update: In June the *Ann Arbor News* reported that many of the vandalized tombstones of the **Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery** in Scio Township were being stood upright and put back together. A church restoration committee was formed and the cost of restoration was estimated to be $80,000. Anyone wishing to contribute to the church fund should contact Pastor Doug Hartley.

In **Northfield Township**, officials in July finalized the purchase of the 5.5-acre **Kelley Centennial Farm** on Main Street for the township's new fire station. William Kelley came from Ireland and settled in the area in the 1850s. He once had a 300-acre dairy farm. Matriarch Mary Ellen Kelley died in 1998 and son Patrick Kelley said she had always wanted the land to be used for a fire station.

We are happy to publicize events in the county and surrounding area. Please send materials to Impressions Editor Susan Wineberg, 712 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor 48104, or call (734) 668-7470, or email swines@umich.edu



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